

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

THE VIP LOUNGE

Cameron Esposito

on the aisle seat, the room service splurge, and keeping your shoes on

Cameron Esposito is everywhere these days. While her roots are in stand-up comedy, which she still performs regularly, the Western Springs, Ill., native hosts a popular podcast, “Queery,” where she interviews LGBTQ+ guests, she published a book in 2020 called “Save Yourself,” and, most recently, she joined the cast of the popular ABC drama “A Million Little Things.” It’s set in Boston, which is not unfamiliar territory for Esposito, who graduated from Boston College in 2004. In the show, which has been renewed for a fifth season, Esposito plays the love interest of Katherine Saville (played by Grace Park). “I feel really lucky,” she said of the role, which she landed last season. “It’s just a great cast and they have all been so welcoming and supportive.” On the stand-up front, Esposito has numerous shows planned for the summer and is especially excited for her Sept. 11 performance at Laugh Boston — although she did admit that Boston audiences are “tough.” And while Esposito said she isn’t nervous to perform here, she knows she has to bring her A-game. “You’ve got to take the reins and adjust so everybody knows who’s boss,” she said with a laugh. “It’s a spirited city, you know?” We caught up with Esposito, 40, who lives in Los Angeles with her wife, Katy Nishimoto, a book editor, and their rescue “desert mutt,” Ruby, to talk about all things travel.

Favorite vacation destination? Today? Palm Springs, [Calif.]. The desert still feels magical and new, 10 years into living out West. But for Bostonians, come on . . . it’s the Cape. I spent lots of time in Eastham during college and after — and in Provincetown, then and a few times since. And on the Vineyard, where my sister lived for a time. Many



Cameron Esposito in Palm Springs, Calif.

ferries were taken. I also have an aunt who lives in Marblehead. Just in general, the Atlantic is pretty spectacular.

Favorite food or drink while vacationing? Seafood if I’m near the ocean: oysters, lobster . . . all those things delivered in a wooden crate by some guy with a long white beard

and rubber boots.

Where would you like to travel to but haven’t? I’ve worked in or visited so many places, but somehow have never been to Australia or Asia. This will change. Check in with me in 10 more years.

One item you can’t leave home without when traveling? Audiobooks have been my constant companion as I’ve toured or worked on location. Right now, I’m listening to “The Power of the Dog.” Before that it was “True Biz,” “Convenience Store Woman,” “My Policeman,” and “Giovanni’s Room.” All highly recommended.

Aisle or window? Aisle. Literally always. I need to move around.

Favorite childhood travel memory? Hanging in the way back seat of my parents’ wood-paneled station wagon with my big sister as we did the annual, or sometimes biannual, 27-hour drive from Chicago to Marco Island, Fla., for vacation.

Guilty pleasure when traveling? Room service. When I was a kid, my mom would occasionally take us down to go holiday window shopping and stay at a hotel in the city — I grew up 15 miles west of Chicago in the ‘burbs — and we’d order room service for dessert or breakfast the next morning. It just felt so lush and adult and cushy, and I still think of that if I splurge and get room service.

Best travel tip? I promise you, you can keep your shoes on while on the plane. Please. It’s important — especially if you are sitting next to me.

JULIET PENNINGTON

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Allegiant Air left my home airport. What do I do with this credit?



DAVID BECKER/AP

An Allegiant Air jetliner flies by the Luxor Resort & Casino after taking off from McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

By Christopher Elliott
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Q. I recently had to cancel a flight on Allegiant Air after having an accident. The airline sent me a voucher for \$117.

Shortly after that, Allegiant announced that it was discontinuing service to our home airport, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. I’m certain I will not be able to use this voucher.

I’ve sent Allegiant three polite e-mails asking for a refund, but it isn’t responding. Could you help me get a refund?

BRUCE SIDAWAY, *Independence, Ohio*

A. You canceled your flight, so Allegiant did what it was required to do — it offered you a voucher for the amount of your ticket. But in late 2021, Allegiant said it would end its operations at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, citing higher costs of serving that market.

When an airline pulls out of a market, you’re in a gray area when it comes to the consumer protection rules. There’s no requirement under the Department of Transportation regulations to refund your ticket. But as a practical matter, airlines will often offer a refund when they no longer serve a destination.

Your case was a little unusual because Allegiant didn’t respond to your e-mails. I wondered why. They were brief and polite — and they were addressed directly to the vice president of operations.

I think that was the problem. For requests like this, you’re better off going through the Contact Us page on the site at www.allegiantair.com/contactus. Only after that should you have escalated your case to one of the Allegiant executives on my consumer advocacy site at www.elliott.org/company-contacts/allegiant/.

Maybe Allegiant’s customer service team thought you might be able to drive to Cincinnati, a city it still serves. Many travelers looking for a deal on an airfare would spend a little extra time in a car, but you indicated that a four-hour drive to the airport just isn’t worth it. And besides, Allegiant sold you a ticket from Cleveland, not Cincinnati.

If an airline no longer serves your home airport, you should get a full refund for your ticket — or your ticket credit. It’s common sense. I contacted Allegiant on your behalf.

“Your inquiry must have prompted the airline to finally respond,” you said. “I received an unsigned e-mail acknowledging their decision to refund the full amount of the voucher. The credit was applied to our credit card the next day.”

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers resolve their problems. Elliott’s latest book is “How to Be the World’s Smartest Traveler” (National Geographic). Contact him at elliott.org/help or chris@elliott.org.

HERE

THREE’S A CHARM

Those heading to the Berkshire Hills this summer have three new choices for accommodations in the heart of Lenox. Following extensive renovations, Life House is debuting the Lenox Collection, a newly reimagined family of inns connected by deep historical roots in town. The three inns — The Whitlock, The Constance, The Dewey — are each named after their original 18th- and 19th-century owners, and embody the elegant charm, rustic warm feel, and whimsical character of each property. Amenities are the same as every Life House property: Le Labo products, Marshall speakers, and custom Life House scents. The Whitlock’s 66-seat restaurant and bar, Ophelia’s, offers farm-to-table comfort food and curated cocktails in an intimate indoor-outdoor setting. Seasonal rates. The Constance from \$270/night; The Dewey from \$237/night; The Whitlock from \$398/night. www.thelenoxcollection.com

MAINE MUSEUM WELCOMES WYETH

Fans of Andrew Wyeth’s work will be thrilled to learn that The Wyeth Foundation for American Art has announced that 7,000 works by the artist have been made accessible for exhibition, scholarship, and loans through a partnership between the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pa., and the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine. (Previously, only 15 percent of these artworks have been exhibited.) This summer, the Farnsworth offers two exhibits, “Andrew Wyeth: Islands in Maine,” featuring islands in Muscongus and Penobscot Bay on which the artist found endless inspiration; and “Andrew Wyeth: Early Temperas,” created between 1937 and 1939 and accompanied by a selection of studies for each piece in pencil, ink, and watercolor. On view through Oct. 16. Adults \$15; seniors \$13; ages 16 and under free. 207-596-6457, www.farnsworthmuseum.org

THERE

ROADSIDE LODGE MAKEOVER

In Northern Arizona’s alpine wilderness, Classic Hotels & Resorts debuts its newest hotel concept, the 123-room High Country Motor lodge, a Nordic spa mountain retreat along historic Route 66 in Flagstaff. The property’s renovation includes renovation of all guest rooms; the addition of three private cottage suites and two junior suites; restoration of the expansive outdoor pool; new oversized hot tub, private saunas and



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plunge pool; and development of an indoor/outdoor bar and restaurant. Melding vintage style with contemporary design, the rooms offer the familiar comforts of a modern mountain lodge articulated through raw wood materials and muted palette of natural stone and matte black finishes. In addition, the hotel partnered with Charleston, S.C.-based design studio SDCO Partners on branding and vision, including adding fun elements throughout, like vintage tape decks with mixtapes available in every room. Located in the foothills of Lowell Observatory, the hotel celebrates Flagstaff’s designation as the world’s first International Dark Sky Place, and provides info on nearby sky-watching destinations. Rates from \$149. 866-928-4265, highcountrymotorlodge.com

PURA VIDA ON PACIFIC COAST

If you’re looking for a premier sportfishing and eco-adventure destination, consider the new offering by Curio Collection by Hilton, the Botánica Osa Peninsula. Located on Costa Rica’s South Pacific Coast beside two of the country’s prized natural jewels — Corcovado National Park and the Pacific Ocean’s Golfo Dulce — Botánica Osa Peninsula provides guests with an immersive rain forest experience. The 21-acre resort is opening with 43 residences (with a total of 123 expected in 2023) available in studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom configurations with floor-to-ceiling windows, modern kitchenettes or full kitchens, oversized terraces and private rooftop lounge for nature viewing and stargazing. Amenities include fitness center, four culinary outlets, conference center,

lagoon-style resort pool, and access to Crocodile Bay Marina, home to the largest private sportfishing fleet in Central and South America. Seasonal rates from \$195. 833-812-0674, botanikaresort.com

EVERYWHERE

STYLISH SUMMER SHIRT

The new lightweight, stylish, and easy-to-pack Basin Shirt for men by KUIU might become the favorite addition to your summer travel attire. Suitable for work or leisure, the technical button-up shirt is engineered with a stretch fabric that’s ideal for warmer days. The shirt features two secure chest pockets, two-way stretch for comfort, and can work tucked or untucked. Available in three colors: olive, steel-blue, and stone. \$79. www.kuiu.com/products/basin-shirt-olive

MULTI-USE INFLATABLE GEAR

Can’t decide which water sports gear to buy? Sign up to be one of the first to own The Switch, a two-in-one paddleboard/kayak combo by ISLE. The new hybrid watercraft converts from one to the other in seconds, and weighs in at just 19 pounds. The user-centric design includes a full-length soft and grippy traction pad that supports yoga, pets, kids, and lounging across the entire deck. Multiple accessories can easily be secured. In kayak mode, The Switch features seats with 4-inch inflatable cushion and fiberglass-reinforced backs for comfort and control on the water. \$995. www.islesurfand-sup.com/blog/Switch-Waitlist

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